

### Claim Rejections

All the claims were previously rejected under Section 102 on Potter or Adams, except Claim 10 which was rejected under Section 103 on Potter in view of Hood.

The rejections based on Adams should be withdrawn in view of the Rule 131 Declaration submitted herewith.

The new base claims 39 and 40 now include the following limitations:

“the cable connector having opposed side walls and a front wall for engaging a part”

and

“fingers at a fingers end distal from said handle end to freely engage the side walls of said cable connector without contacting said front wall”.

Potter is a wire stripping device. It has nothing to do with inserting a cable connector into a part. Potter must engage the front of the wires with the finger, or he will not strip the insulation from the wire. If the Potter structure were used in the applicant’s environment, the part would be destroyed by the pincer action of the stripping tool. Applicant submits that this reference should be withdrawn. Furthermore, the structure recited in the dependent claims are not fairly suggested by Potter (or Adams for that part). For example, where is the “lug” recited in Claims 4-5, 8, or “non-slip grip” recited in Claim 5, or the “finger rest” of Claims 15 and 32, or the ability to have One hand” control recited in Claim 29 or the lack of “spring action” of Claim 31, or the “long juts” of Claim 34. These features combined with the unique structure for holding the cable connector without deforming it or making it impossible for connection to a part by having the fingers made with an extension for cutting whatever is held by them should patentably distinguish applicant’s

device from the prior art.

Applicant submits that this Rule 131 Declaration clearly shows that applicant made the invention before the filing date of the Adams reference. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Adams reference be withdrawn. It is further believed that the claims as now present overcome the Potter reference.

Kindly charge the extension fee to Deposit Account 06-0040 of the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully,



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## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

**1 - 2** (Cancelled)

**3.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]]**39**, wherein said fingers form a substantially rectangular connector slot capable of engaging a substantially rectangular connector.

**4.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]] **40**, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise an engaging lug in said cable slot.

**5.** (Previously presented) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]] **4**, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise a non-slip grip in said cable slot.

**6- 7** (Cancelled)

**8.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]]**39**, wherein each finger comprises an engagement lug at its end and said fingers form a connector slot that engages the connector by hooking the engagement lug around a distal corner of the connector.

**9.** (Cancelled)

**10.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]]**40** that is made from plastic.

**11.** (Cancelled)

**12.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]]**40**, wherein the fingers flex outward when projected from the sleeve, and are moved inward by said sleeve as they are drawn into the said sleeve.

**13.- 14.** (Cancelled)

**15.** (Currently amended) The connector tool according to Claim [[24]] **39**, further comprising a finger rest at the said first end of the sleeve.

**16-28.** (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The connector tool recited in Claim [[25]] 39, wherein sliding movement of said gripper in said sleeve can be accomplished with one hand of its user.

30. (Currently amended) The connector tool recited in Claim [[25]] 39, wherein said cable connector can be withdrawn from and inserted into said fingers only when said handle is moved to a point where said fingers project from said sleeve.

31. (Currently amended) The connector tool recited in Claim [[25]] 39, wherein movement of said gripper in said sleeve is accomplished without spring action.

32. (Currently amended) The connector tool recited in Claim [[25]] 39, wherein said sleeve has a finger rest adjacent said handle.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The connector tool recited in Claim [[33]]36, wherein long juts on the walls of said sleeve define said cable slot channel.

35. (Previously presented) The connector tool according to Claim 37, wherein said gripper has flexible fingers, such that said fingers are gradually moved together as they are drawn into said sleeve.

36. (Previously presented) The connector tool recited in Claim [[38]]39 wherein said cable slot extends through the first end and second end of said sleeve.

**37 - 38. Cancelled**

39. (New) A connector tool adaptable to engage a cable connector having opposed side walls and a front wall for engaging a part, said tool comprising:

    a sleeve having a first end and a second end, and

    an elongated gripper slidably extending through said sleeve;

said gripper comprising  
        a handle at a handle end free of said sleeve, and  
        fingers at a fingers end distal from said handle end to freely engage the side walls of  
        said cable connector without contacting said front wall,  
        wherein said gripper is slidable in said sleeve, and  
        when said handle is slid to said first sleeve end, said fingers project from said second  
        end free of said sleeve; and  
        when said handle is slid away from said first sleeve end a sufficient distance for said  
        fingers to be drawn into said second end; and said fingers lock said cable connector  
        into said tool with a remote portion of said cable connector extending from said  
        sleeve,

    said gripper having a cable slot and channel which freely slidably accommodates a cable attached  
    to said cable connector.

**40. (New)** A connector tool adaptable to engage a cable connector having opposed side walls and  
    a front wall for engaging a part, said tool comprising two pieces, consisting of:

    a first piece being a sleeve having a first end and a second end, and  
    a second piece being an elongated gripper slidably extending through said sleeve;  
    said gripper having  
        a handle at a handle end free of said sleeve, and  
        fingers at a fingers end distal from said handle end adaptable to freely engage said  
        side walls of said cable connector without contacting said front wall,  
        said finger each being co-planar and free of any projections at their distal ends,

wherein said gripper is slidable in said sleeve, and  
when said handle is slid to said first sleeve end, said fingers project from said second end  
free of said sleeve; and  
when said handle is slid away from said first sleeve end a sufficient distance for said  
fingers to be drawn into said second end; said fingers grasp said cable connector into said tool  
with said front wall of said cable connector extending from said sleeve,  
said gripper having a cable slot and cable channel adapted to accommodate a cable a  
attached to said cable connector.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this accompanying AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE, and the enclosed RULE 131 DECLARATION were submitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office via prepaid FIRST CLASS US MAIL in an envelope properly addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, in accordance with the Rules on February 13, 2007..



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth A. Hall", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the word "Attorney." is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font.